

GERMEA.

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY.

THIS county is situated in the northwestern part of the State, there being but one county, Del Norte, intervening between Humboldt and the State of Oregon. It is bounded on the north by Del Norte and Siskiyou Counties, on the east by Trinity, on the south by Mendocino, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. In its measurement from north to south it covers nearly two parallels of latitude, its southern boundary being the Fortieth parallel, while its northernmost extremity reaches far up toward the Forty-second, the exact distance being about 105 miles, the width being about 40 miles. The superficial area contained average within its boundaries is 3,590 square miles or 2,297,600 acres, an area so immense that a better appreciation of its dimensions is had when it is stated, that Humboldt County is three times as large as the State of Rhode Island, and about as large as the State of Connecticut. In length of coast line it leads the list of all the coast counties, possessing as it does 175 miles of water front. Included in this long line, and situated at about its centre, is found the magnificent Humboldt Bay, the largest and finest harbor on the coast next to San Francisco. It is fifteen miles in length and varies in width from three to seven miles, the total tidal area being about 50 square miles, the entrance is about one mile in width. The navigable channel at the mouth is restricted, however, to a width of a little over one quarter of a mile by breakers which put out from either shore; the depth of water in the channel at low tide is 18 feet. This contraction of the open channel at the mouth of the harbor, enforces the exercise of caution and good seamanship in making an entrance, but once in, perfect security is obtained from all winds and storms. The Government has expended, and is still expending considerable sums in improving the mouth of the harbor, and, with a little additional work, every material impediment to the future of this grand haven will be removed. Trinidad Bay, 17 miles north of Humboldt, is a small deep harbor well sheltered from all winds. Shelter Cove, at the extreme southern part of the coast line, completes the list of ports of the county. It is, however, an available port only in fair weather.

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